



Global Tuna Alliance

A market led initiative to deliver sustainable tuna

Introduction



The Global Tuna Alliance (GTA)



- An independent group of retailers and supply-chain companies, working to ensure that tuna ultimately meets the highest standards of environmental performance and social responsibility.
- The GTA was established response to RFMOs not managing tuna fisheries properly; impacting supply chain commitments
- Fully-funded by the World Economic Forum to implement the Tuna 2020 Traceability Declaration commitments:
 - Tuna Traceability
 - Social Responsibility
 - Environmental Sustainability
 - **Government Partnerships**

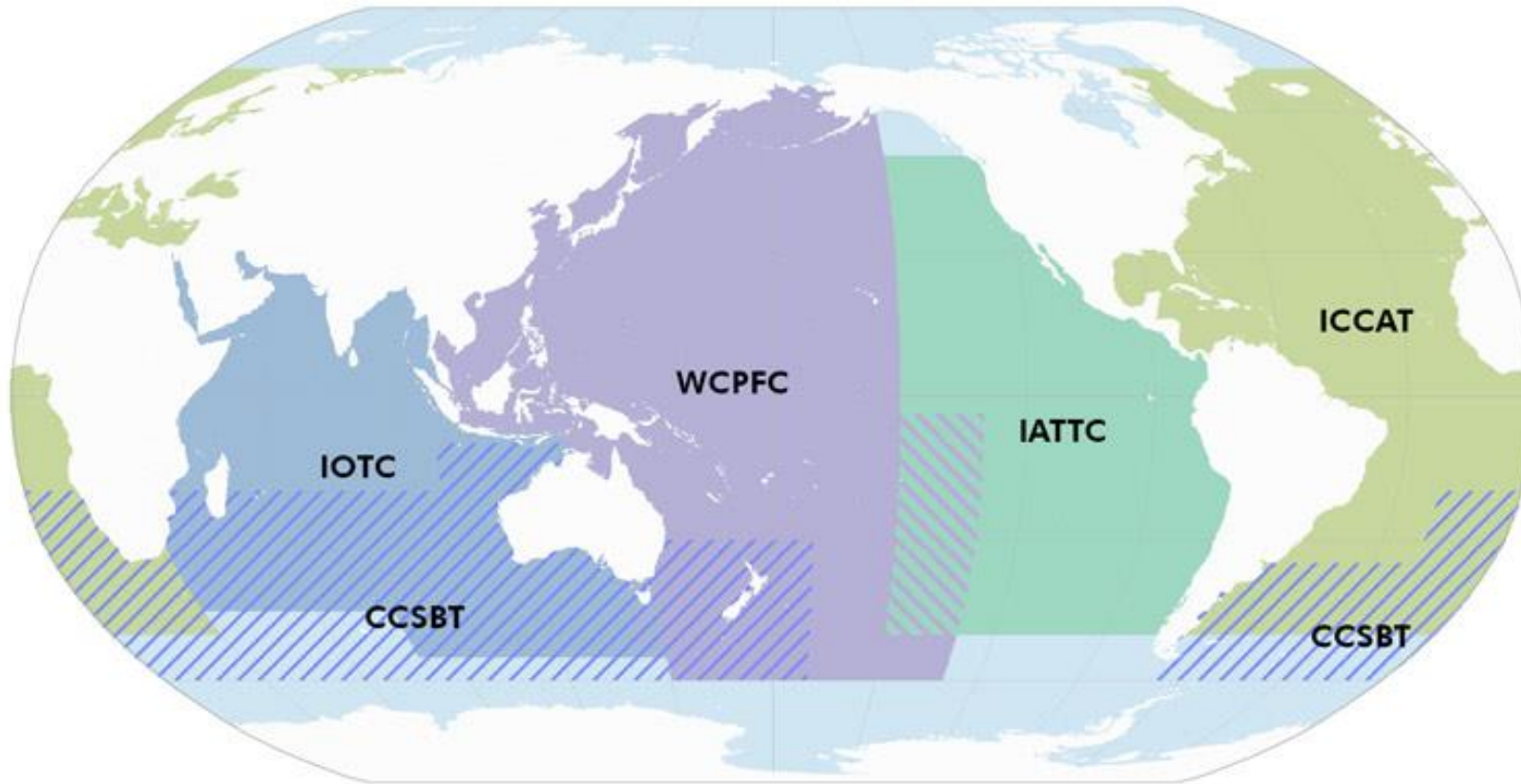
RFMOS & the Tuna 2020 Traceability Declaration



The **Government Partnership commitment** calls on industry leaders to work with governments to take actions needed to:

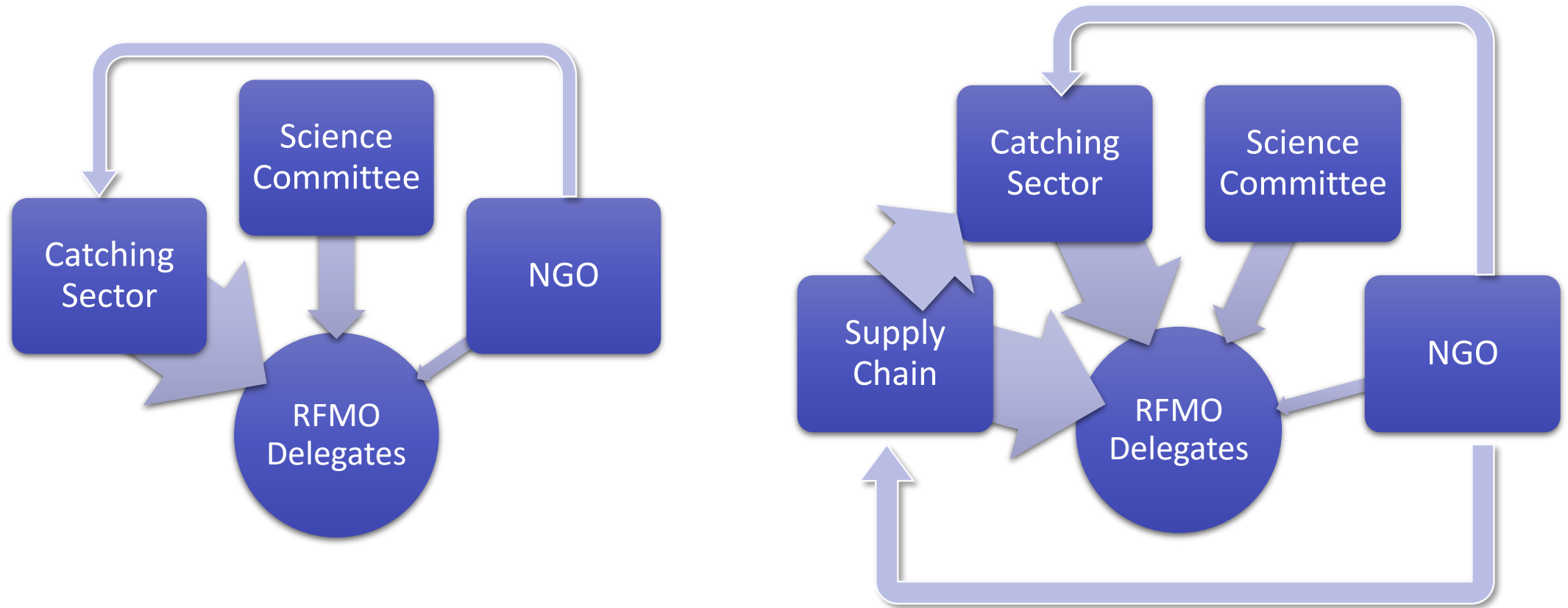
- a) Implement Harvest Strategies for all tuna stocks under the jurisdiction of each tuna RFMO by 2020, that will ensure sustainably managed tuna fisheries in line with SDG Target 14.4.*
- b) Establish systems to identify and restrict illegal seafood through government-led measures on traceability and transparency.*
- c) Build capacity to establish and manage information systems to account for domestic and international fishing fleets, landings, enforcement and trade of seafood products, in line with the FAO Code of Conduct and the Port State Measure Agreement.*

Why are RFMOs so Important?



- **IOTC** - Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
- **WCPFC** - Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
- **IATTC** - Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
- **ICCAT** - International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
- **CCSBT** - Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

Importance of Market Engagement of RFMOs



Joined Up Approach to RFMO Advocacy



- The GTA is an observer of the **Global NGO Tuna Forum**
- Forum members agree on priority asks for tuna fisheries
- The Forum offers a collaborative approach to RFMO engagement to:
 - Avoid duplication of asks
 - Avoid confusion
 - Maximise amplification of the priority asks



Joined Up Approach to RFMO Advocacy



TUPA
Tuna Protection Alliance

Joint RFMO Positions in 2020

Our RFMO Asks



Core 2020 RFMO Engagement Priorities



Accelerate action
on the
development of
harvest strategies

100% observer
coverage on
longline and
transshipment
vessels

Reforming the
regulations of at-
sea transshipment

Develop a
comprehensive
FAD management
program

IOTC

Rebuilding plan for
yellowfin*

Skipjack HCRs

*Hiring fisheries
scientist(s) to develop
management
proposals

IATTC

Tropical Tuna
Conservation
Management
Measure

ICCAT

Mako Shark
Conservation
(TBC)

WCPFC

Skipjack Harvest
Strategies (MSC
Alignment Issue)

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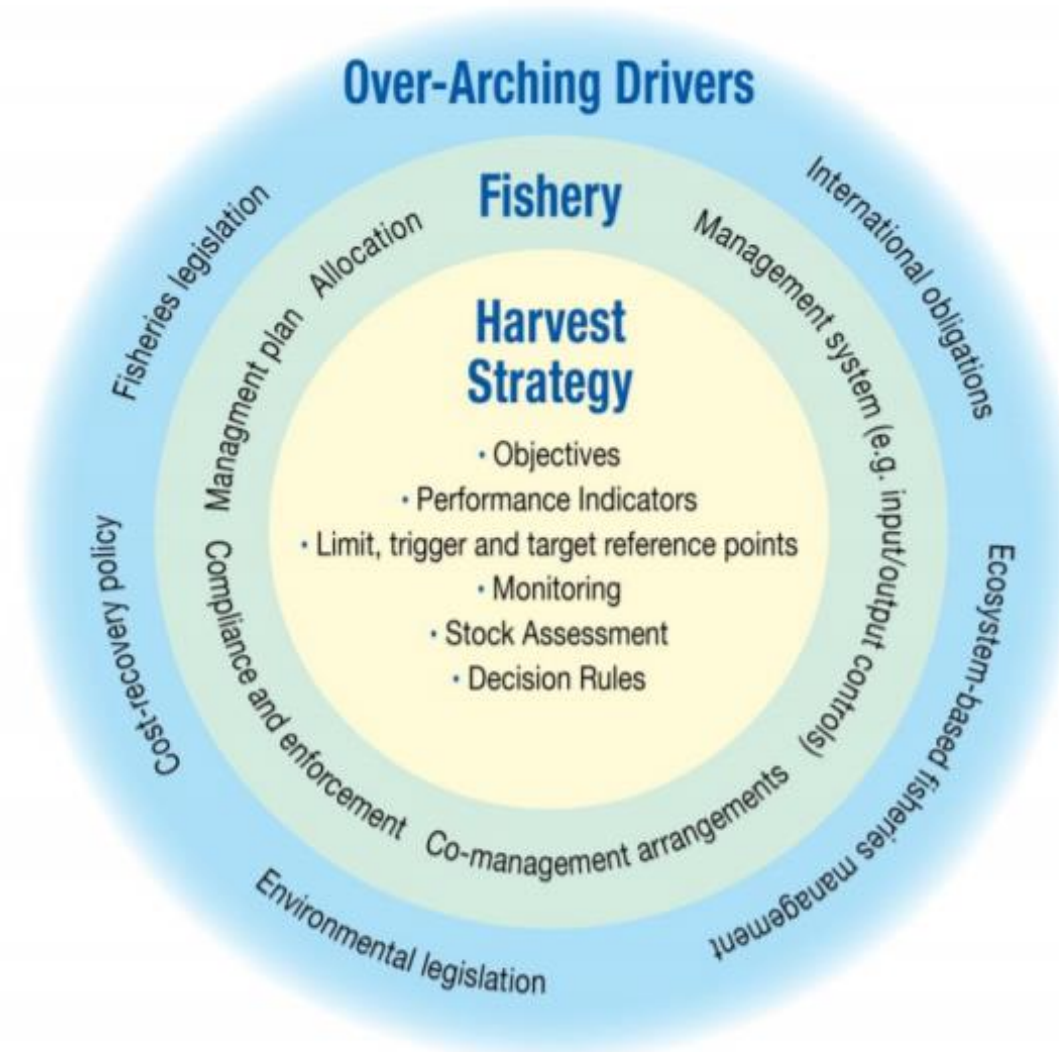
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Harvest Strategies



Stock Sustainability Relative to MSC Criteria



P1 - Relating to the status of the stock			WPO Yellowfin	WPO Bigeye	WPO Skipjack	EPO Yellowfin	EPO Bigeye	EPO Skipjack	NPO Albacore	SPO Albacore	IO Yellowfin	IO Bigeye	IO Skipjack	IO Albacore
Component	PI No.	Performance Indicator (PI)												
Outcome	1.1.1	Stock Status	100	100	100	80	80	80	90	100	70	100	90	100
	1.1.2	Stock Rebuilding									FAIL			
Management	1.2.1	Harvest Strategy	75	75	75	80	75	75	75	75	65	80	80	65
	1.2.2	Harvest Control Rules & Tools	FAIL	FAIL	60	80	60	75	FAIL	60	60	FAIL	75	FAIL
	1.2.3	Information/Monitoring	80	80	90	80	80	80	90	80	80	80	80	75
	1.2.4	Assessment of Stock Status	95	90	95	100	75	80	100	85	90	90	90	85
Stock rebuilding required?			NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
P1 Score			FAIL	FAIL	90.0	82.5	76.3	78.8	FAIL	87.5	FAIL	FAIL	85.6	FAIL

Source: ISSF, 2019

TUNA STOCKS WITH HCRs AND STOCKS WHERE MSC CERTIFIED FISHERIES HAVE COMMITTED TO DELIVERING HCRs

Species	Indian Ocean (IOTC) ⁱ	Atlantic Ocean (ICCAT) ⁱⁱ	Western-Central Pacific (WCPFC) ⁱⁱⁱ	Eastern Pacific (IATTC) ^{iv}	Southern Hemisphere (CCSBT) ^v
Skipjack	HCR in place	2022	2021	Managed by the HCR on YFT and BET	n/a
Yellowfin		2022	2021	HCR in place	n/a
Bigeye			2021	HCR in place	n/a
Albacore		HCR in place	2021 (South Pacific stock) 2023 (North Pacific stock)	2023	n/a
Southern Bluefin					HCR in place

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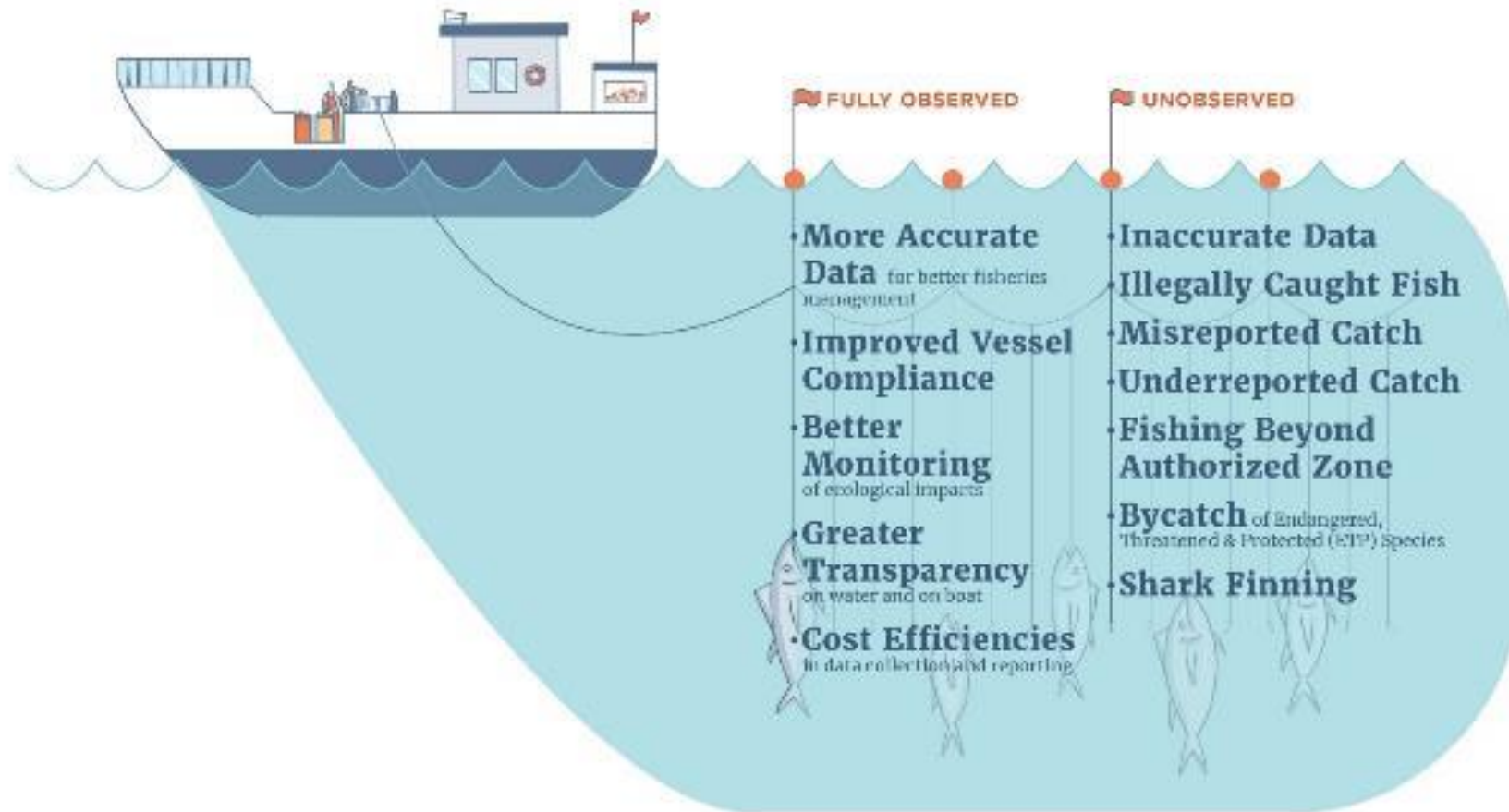
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100% Observer Coverage



FULLY OBSERVED VS. UNOBSERVED TUNA FISHERIES



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Reforming at-sea Transshipment Regs



Reforming at-sea Transshipment Regs



Notification

Increasing the advance notification requirement to at least 48 hours

Declarations

Requiring the submission of transshipment declarations by the fishing vessel to the RFMO Secretariat and flag State in near real-time

Flagging

Requiring that carrier vessels be flagged to an RFMO member CPC in order to be authorized to tranship tuna and tuna-like species

Standards

Developing electronic reporting standards for carrier and longline fishing vessels

Vessel Lists

list of all vessels authorized to engage in at-sea transshipment activities

IMO Numbers

Require that vessels must have an IMO number in order to be authorized to transship

Observer Coverage

Require 100 percent observer coverage (human, electronic or both on the fishing vessel and the carrier vessel for all at-sea transshipping events)

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Better FAD Management



Better FAD Management



Reduce Bycatch

Biodegradable

Set a timeframe to transition to FADs without nets and with biodegradable materials.

Non-entangling

Require fleets to remove previously deployed highly entangling FADs from the water.

Improve Management

Recovery & Retrieval

Design FAD-recovery mechanisms and incentives, such as increasing purse seiners' FAD retrieval and storing capacity, and removing a percentage of FADs from the water relative to the number deployed.

Limits

Adopt science-based limits on FAD deployments and/or FAD sets.

Reduce Debris

Tender Vessels

Adopt supply-and-tender vessel measures, including identifying vessels supported, data collection on FADs deployed and serviced, identifying on the Record of Fishing Vessels, and applying observer requirements.

Marking

Develop a FAD marking scheme based on the FAO Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear for all new FAD deployments, regardless of vessel type.

Position Data

Require complete FAD position data and acoustic records from echosounder buoys.

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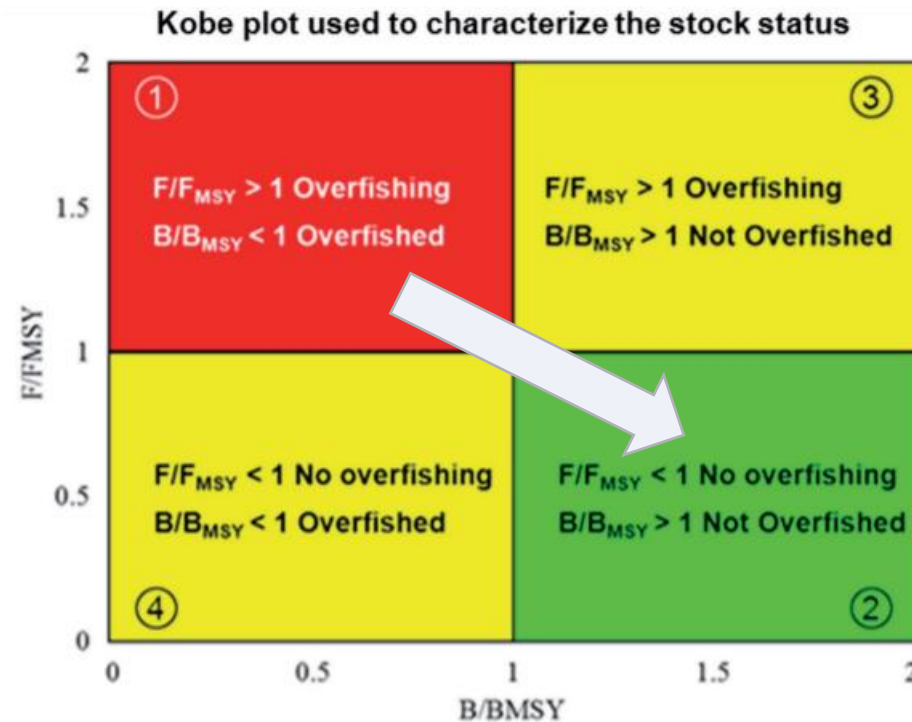
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Rebuilding plan for Indian Ocean yellowfin

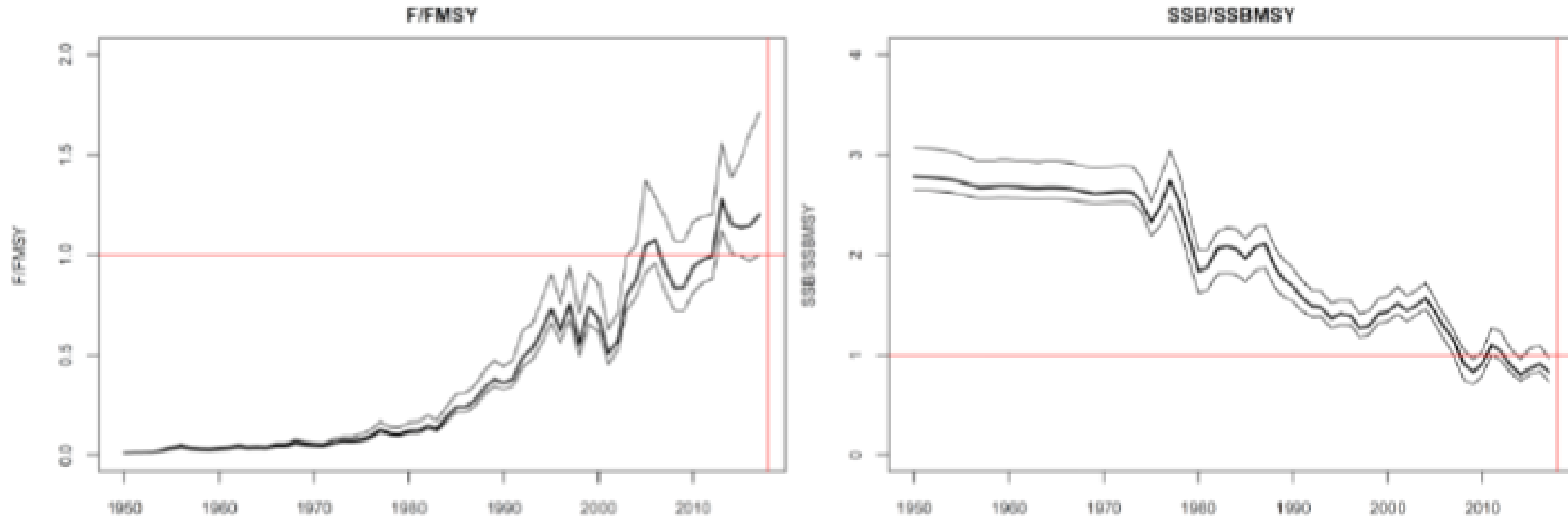


- Rebuilding plan* for yellowfin that will rebuild stock in two generations.



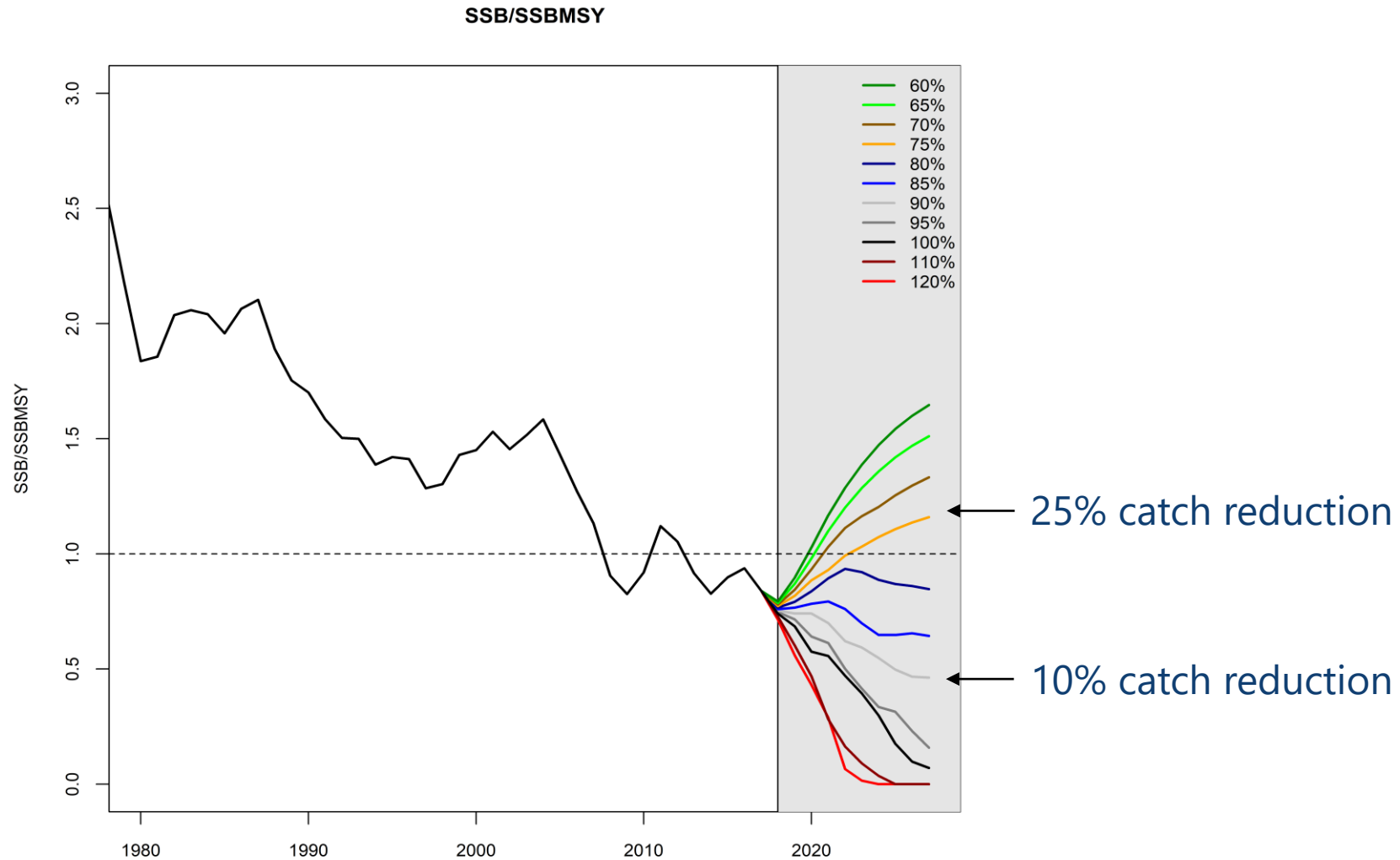
* GTA producing independent management advice to support

Yellowfin Fishing Mortality & Stock Status Trends



Yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean is
overfished and subject to **overfishing**

What happened at IOTC in 2019?



Skipjack Harvest Control Rules



- There is a HCR for skipjack in the Indian Ocean
- Defined an annual catch limit of 470,029 tonnes for the years 2018 to 2020
- However, total catches in 2018 (607,701 t) were 29% larger than the IOTC catch limit, and there has been an increasing trend in catches over the past 3 years.
- According to FAO definitions this could be classified as IUU fishing; in the sense that its **unregulated**
- Putting 2 MSC certifications in this region at risk as well as commercial sourcing policies

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INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico
24-28 July 2017

RESOLUTION C-17-02

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR TROPICAL TUNAS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 2018-2020 AND AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-17-01

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd Meeting:

Aware of its responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area and for formulating recommendations to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) with regard to these resources;

Recognizing that the potential production from the resource can be reduced if fishing effort is excessive;

Concerned that the capacity of the purse-seine fleets fishing for tunas in the Convention Area continues to increase;

Taking into account the best scientific information available, reflected in the IATTC staff's recommendations, and the precautionary approach; and

Recalling the need to take into account the special circumstances and requirements of the developing countries of the region, particularly the coastal countries, as recognized in the Antigua Convention, in particular in its Preamble and its Article XXIII, paragraph 1;

Agrees:

To apply in the Convention Area the conservation and management measures for tropical tuna set out below, and to request that the staff of the IATTC monitor the fishing activities of the respective CPC's flag vessels relative to this commitment, and also report on such activities at each annual meeting of the Commission;

1. These measures are applicable during 2018-2020 to all CPCs' purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 4 to 6 (more than 182 metric tons carrying capacity), and to all their longline vessels over 24 meters length overall, that fish for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tunas in the Convention Area.
2. Pole-and-line, troll, and sportfishing vessels, and purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 1-3 (182 metric tons carrying capacity or less) and longline vessels less than 24 meters length overall, are not subject to these measures, except those related to the management of FADs.

MEASURES FOR PURSE-SEINE FLEETS

3. All purse-seine vessels covered by these measures must stop fishing in the Convention Area for a period of 72 days in each year covered by this resolution. These closures shall be effected in one of two periods, as follows: from 00:00 hours on 29 July to 24:00 hours on 8 October, or from 00:00 hours on 9 November to 24:00 hours on 19 January of the following year.
4. The fishery for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna by purse-seine vessels within the area of 96° and 110°W and between 4°N and 3°S, known as the "corralito", which is illustrated in Figure 1, shall be closed from 00:00 hours on 9 October to 24:00 hours on 8 November of each year.

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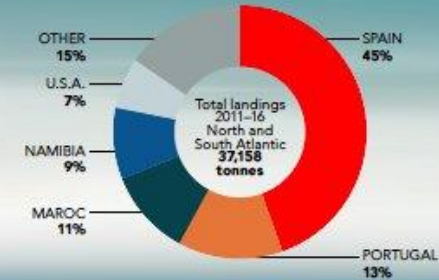
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Strategies (MSC
Alignment Issue)

Mako Shark Conservation



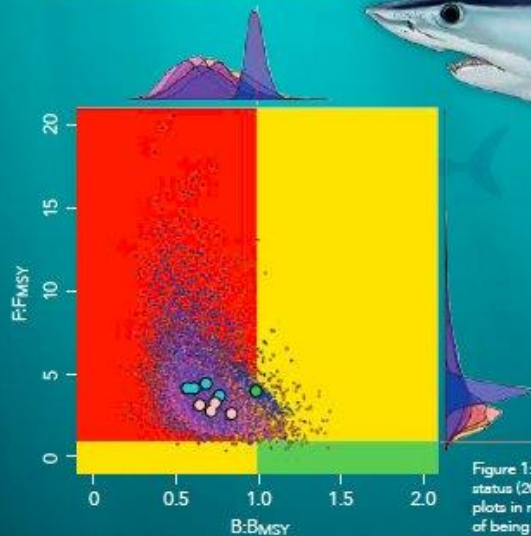
MAKE TIME FOR MAKOS!

Bycatch of shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) in ICCAT fisheries has been overlooked for far too long.



RAISE THE PRIORITY

Since the 2008 Ecological Risk Assessment, scientists have warned that shortfin mako sharks are exceptionally vulnerable to ICCAT fisheries. While ICCAT has since granted many other shark species prohibited status, makos have been passed over. The Standing Committee on Statistics and Research (SCRS) recommendations to cap or reduce fishing mortality have been met with inadequate responses, time and time again.



- Shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)**
- Age of maturity (\bar{x}): 18 years
 - Length at 50% (\bar{x}) maturity: ~275cm
 - Gestation: 15-18 months
 - Reproduction: 4-25 pups every 2-3 years
 - Life span: ~32 years
 - IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable

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MSC Alignment



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Southern Bluefin					HCR in place

How to Engage with RFMOs



How to Engage with RFMOs



Collaborative

- Join representative organisations (for example the **Global Tuna Alliance**)
- Participate in collaborative outreach and engagement

Independent

- Develop an internal RFMO policy
- Write to the delegations of relevance
- Present asks 'in-person'
- Ask your suppliers to engage RFMOs
- Attend RFMO Meetings



Overview
for Market
Actors



Template text for
letters, talking points



Delegate
Details

Take Home Messages



- RFMOs have an essential role in tuna fisheries management
- They rarely hear the voice of the supply chain (excluding catching sector who are often well represented)
- The Government Partnership commitment includes industry leaders calling on governments to take actions needed to:
 - a) Implement Harvest Strategies for all tuna stocks under the jurisdiction of each tuna RFMO by 2020, that will ensure sustainably managed tuna fisheries in line with SDG Target 14.4.*
 - b) Establish systems to identify and restrict illegal seafood through government-led measures on traceability and transparency*
- To achieve (a & b), the GTA is encouraging companies to:
 - Partner with the GTA
 - Participate in GTA-led RFMO engagement
 - Directly engage with RFMO delegates using provided RFMO engagement resources